

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 USIA-06
COME-00 TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 L-03 SP-02
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 STR-04 /094 W
-----151543Z 048837 /45

R 151353Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0648

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR EB/TRP - MR PILKAUSKAS-WASHDC: FODAG - MR. HIGGINSON-ROME

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAG, FAO

SUBJECT: TEA-- FOURTH SESSION OF FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL
GROUP ON TEA, LONDON, FEB 14-25, 1977

REF: ROME 4395

1. GEORGE FORD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, TROPICAL FOODS
DIVISION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ON FEB 14 CON-
FIRMED UK ASSESSMENT OF TEA MEETING TO EMBOFF ABOUT AS
REPORTED IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL. UK FEELS THE KENYANS
MAY BE SOFTENING SOMEWHAT THEREBY IMPROVING THE CHANCES
FOR AN EVENTUAL INTERNATIONAL TEA AGREEMENT. FORD SAID
KENYA WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ITS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AS HEAD OF DELEGATION.

2. FORD IMPARTED IMPRESSION THAT THE U.K. WOULD LIKE
SOME PROGRESS TO BE MADE TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT AT THIS
MEETING. REASONS NOTED DURING THE COURSE OF THE CON-
VERSATION INCLUDED INITIATIVES ALREADY TAKEN IN THIS AREA,
THE U.K.'S POSITION AS MAJOR CONSUMER AND U.K.- COMMON-
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WEALTH TIES. HE DID NOT SEEM TO EXPECT MUCH MORE OUT OF
THE PRESENT SESSION, HOWEVER, THAN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN
CLIMATE, POSSIBLY AGREEMENT ON SETTING UP TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUPS TO LOOK AT SUCH THINGS AS INDICATOR PRICES..
HE CLAIMED THAT AT THIS POINT AT MOST THE U.K. WAS THINK-
ING OF A "STAND-BY" AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD COME INTO
EFFECT ONLY WHEN PRICES DROP AND HE FELT IT WAS BETTER

TO KEEP TO GENERALITIES THEREBY ALLOWING THE GREATEST
DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY WHEN AND IF GOVERNMENTS FINALLY
GET DOWN TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATING.

3. FORD SAID THAT, UNLESS KENYA COULDBE BROUGHT IN LINE,
IT WOULD BE SENSELESS TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY
TOWARD AGREEMENT, AND THE U.K. WOULD NOT PUSH THE ISSUE.
IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED THAT BY THE END OF THE WEEK IT
WOULD BE CLEAR WHETHER THE PRODUCERS WANTED TO WORK
TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT OR NOT.

4. CONCERNING CONSUMERS, FORD SAID THE UK WOULD NOT
TAKE AN INDEPENDENT POSITION APART FROM THE EEC. DESPITE
SOME CONSERVATISM FROM THE COMMUNITY, HOWEVER, HE SEEMED
TO THINK THE EEC WOULD BACK THE UK'S POSITION IN
FAVOR OF NEGOTIATION IF THE PRODUCERS DESIRED IT. ARMSTRONG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, TEA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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